



Illinois passed the first eight-hour law for workers in 1903.

VOL. XI—NO. 39

MONTEREY COUNTY LABOR NEWS

SALINAS, CALIF., TUESDAY, MAY 24, 1949

WHOLE NO. 555

Labor Cost Only 1-3 of House Price

(State Fed. Release)

Payroll costs at the site accounted for about one-third of total house construction costs in 1946-1947, according to a survey recently concluded by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The proportion of costs chargeable to site labor was reported to be about the same as in 1931-1932.

According to the survey, site payroll costs for one-family houses constituted 40.7 per cent of total costs for units averaging under \$5000, compared with 32.5 per cent in the cost class between \$5000 and \$10,000, and 30.7 per cent of houses costing \$10,000 and over.

As would be expected, the number of man-hours required to build the average house increased with the size and cost of the structure. Single-family houses costing less than \$5000, with an average of 755 square feet in floor area, required 1150 man-hours per unit for construction. For dwellings costing over \$10,000, the average floor area was 1165 square feet and man-hours averaged 2190 per house.

The fact that the labor cost ratio was lower while average man-hour requirements were higher on the more expensive houses is ascribed mainly to two factors: utilization of better quality materials and equipment, and employment of a relatively greater number of lower paid unskilled workers for jobs such as site preparation and landscaping.

The survey upon which the article was based was conducted under the Bureau's Area Housing Program, and covered 1760 dwelling units started during 1946-1947 in 18 industrial areas. Two-thirds of the units consisted of single-family houses; the remaining third were in multifamily structures.

The results of this survey show clearly that wages are not responsible for the high cost of housing.

It is also likely that labor costs have declined still further since the survey was made by BLS, for another survey conducted by "Engineering News Record" indicated that contractors in the 16 cities surveyed felt that labor productivity for common labor had increased by about 26 per cent between 1946 and September 1948. In skilled labor, an increase of about 14 per cent occurred in the same period. Such increases in productivity will result in a further decrease in total labor costs.

Unions: Fill Out The Questionnaire

(State Fed. Release)

All local unions throughout the state are urged to cooperate with the State Department of Industrial Relations Division of Labor Statistics and Research by filling out and returning immediately the "Organized Labor Questionnaire for 1949." This questionnaire, which has been sent out each year since 1896, is the basis for the official statement showing the strength and growth of organized labor in California. Individual reports are, of course, kept completely confidential and only summaries and totals are published. One hundred per cent cooperation by all unions in the state will make this year's survey a true census of labor. The Division of Labor Statistics and Research has been of great assistance to unions and its continued ability to help depends on the extent to which unions make available information to it.

M. I. Gershenson, Chief of the Division, reports that in the past year locals have been cooperating more fully than ever before in sending in their collective bargaining contracts, and that, as a result, it has been possible to shorten this year's questionnaire very considerably by asking for little more than the name, address, jurisdiction, membership and number of agreements of each union. The Division is now depending upon local unions to send in their agreements as they are made or renewed. This progress in cooperation between the Division and the labor movement is extremely gratifying and will make for better and more complete reports on matters of vital interest to labor.

Now Unemployment Is "Healthy"

Trenton, N.J.—If you lose your job in New Jersey, in addition to being part of the unemployment pool, you are "a healthy correction" statistic.

This "healthy correction" theory was advanced by the state division of employment security, which announced jobless payments were at a 3-year peak of 124,000. In April alone, 73,000 claims were filed. The division's explanation is that a number of industries apparently had overproduced, hiring more employees than they needed. The current jobless rise, the division added, "represents only a healthy correction of that overproduced condition."

Takes all the sting out of unemployment, doesn't it?

TEMO PRODUCE GROUP SPURS ORGANIZATION



Pictured above is the Policy Committee of the National Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Producers Conference, which has been formed by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters to spur organization in the fruit and vegetable industries. Front row (left to right): Charles Cimino, Cleveland, O., committee secretary-treasurer; E. I. Bowen, Seattle, committee chairman; Harvey Bierman, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Sam Butcher, Cincinnati; second row: John J. Angelo, Youngstown, O.; Bert Brennan, Detroit; Donald C. Cassidy, St. Paul, Minn.; Carl Paddock, Kansas City, Mo.; Fred Irving, Oakland; Tony Schullis, Minneapolis; rear row: Herman R. Lown, Detroit; Silvio Giannini, San Francisco; Albert A. Harris, Salinas; Joseph A. Polito, Buffalo, N.Y.; Leo J. Bauer, Indianapolis; Joe McBride, Los Angeles.

A National Fresh Fruit, Vegetable and Produce Conference has been formed by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and a meeting of the group's Policy Committee and general membership was held recently in Chicago with local Teamster union officials attending.

Purpose of the new division is to spur organization work in the fruit, vegetable and produce industries and to give all possible cooperation to local unions which may be formed in areas involved.

One of such unions is the new Fruit and Vegetable Union 912 of Salinas-Watsonville-Hollister area, headed by Albert A. Harris, president, and Holman Day, secretary.

At the recent meeting of the new Produce Conference in Chicago, the organizational program and help to local unions throughout the nation were given careful consideration. Members from hundreds of local unions affiliated with the IBT attended this meeting. Sixty Joint Councils representing some 1000 local unions were represented.

Problems of organization on the Pacific Coast and particularly in the Salinas Valley and the Imperial Valley of California, where there is a jurisdictional dispute with the CIO-FTA union, were considered.

It was reported that plans were perfected to aid local AFL unions involved wherever and whenever necessary, both economically and financially.

In addition, plans for use of the Teamsters' union label were laid. All members of Teamster Unions in the nation will be notified that produce in crates or boxes bearing the Teamsters' union label has been packed under fair conditions but that produce which does not bear this label has been packed under conditions not recognized by the AFL as fair.

GM Never Heard Of the Union

"Forty years ago a job in an automobile plant, while a good job as of that time," says Chairman Alfred P. Sloan of General Motors Corp. in his 1949 report to stockholders, "meant as many as 60 hours of work per week. Since then hours have been reduced to a standard of 40 hours per week, earnings increased, and heavy physical work reduced by the use of machinery. Employees enjoy paid vacations and holidays, group insurance and other job benefits unheard of 40 years ago."

Unheard of, at least by Mr. Sloan even at this moment, seems to be the fact that these gains were won through auto workers' unions. Nowhere in his 48-page illustrated slickpaper report does he mention the unions.

Pension Plan for Dutch Farm Workers

Washington—The Dutch are putting a partial version of a farm workers' pension plan into effect. Ultimately, according to Dutch information here, the Dutch government plans to provide 200,000 farm workers with the equivalent of about \$52 a month after age 65.

Open Bay Bottleneck

Big highway improvement has started on No. 40, from Carquinez bridge to beyond Fairfield, which will open up a bad traffic bottleneck, as well as put Engineers to work.

Exec. Council Sees Good Times Ahead

(AFL Release)

Cleveland.—Confidence that the United States is not headed for a depression was expressed by the AFL Executive Council in session here.

In a formal statement, the Council took an optimistic view of the nation's economic prospects and voiced opposition to the use of "recession propaganda as an argument to curtail government spending," especially in the fields of housing, education and health.

The Council made no specific reference to the subject of wage increases at this time, but it emphasized that general prosperity could be maintained only as long "as the purchasing power of American workers and the public as a whole remains high."

AFL President William Green told a press conference after the Council session that there is no merit to arguments that unions should forego demands for higher wages this year.

Each international union is clothed with authority to decide its own wage policies," he declared. "A number of our affiliates are going to insist on wage increases. We will support our unions in their wage policies."

The text of the Council's statement on economic conditions follows:

"Certain economists and prophets of economic doom are already heralding a new depression. The Executive Council does not share their view.

"The Executive Council sees no immediate evidence in the nation of a depression, nor any indication of a depression befalling America in the near future.

"On the contrary, all signs point to a continued period of high production, substantial employment and prosperity.

"The few decreases in prices that have taken place are a healthy sign, rather than a danger signal. As production catches up with demand it is only natural and proper that prices should drop off from exaggerated, scarcity peaks. If the inflation spiral were to continue unchecked, the danger to the nation would be much more real and menacing.

"AUTOMATIC PROFITS?" "It is a sad spectacle to see some individuals already complaining of a 'recession' because the post-war era of automatic profits has ended and industry is being compelled to earn profits in a competitive market.

"Another group of reactionaries is using recession propaganda as an argument to curtail government spending, including many vitally needed programs in the fields of housing, education and health. Even if their assumption were true and a recession on the way, that would be all the more reason for the government to continue spending for constructive and worthy projects in order to take up any industrial slack.

"As the facts stand, the needs of the American people and the commitments which our government has made for European recovery and national defense assure a heavy demand for the products of American farms and factories for years to come.

"As long as the purchasing power of American workers and the public as a whole remains high, consumption will keep pace with production and prosperous conditions will continue."

N.M. Bldg. Trades End Walkout

Albuquerque, N.M.—Labor and management representatives are meeting here to iron out details of a settlement which ended a 16-day walkout of 1400 New Mexico AFL construction workers.

The strike was called when the powerful state Contractors Assn. refused to honor an agreement it made with the unions. The walkout was settled here only after a federal conciliator stepped in and held continuous sessions with both sides. The agreement will eliminate the unions' complaint of wage inequalities in various crafts. Both sides agreed to base further consideration of wage boosts on the cost-of-living index.

The two AFL unions which walked out April 18 charged that the employers last year offered a wage increase for this year in return for a union promise to accept a wage scale lower than that existing in neighboring states.

Although there was no wage increase granted in the conciliator's settlement, union chief J. B. McCoy said the agreement was satisfactory to the unions. He and Charles Lemke, head of the employers' association, agreed that in case of any increase in the cost of living they would discuss a wage boost.

Painters 1104 Negotiations In Stalemate

Negotiations for a new wage agreement and working conditions contract covering members of Painters Union 1104 of Salinas have reached a deadlock, according to union Secretary and Business Representative Carl Lara.

Employer representatives have agreed to certain points in regard working conditions but there has been no accord on wages, Lara added. Further meetings are to be held in an effort to break the stalemate.

In regard to employment and projects in the Salinas area, Lara reports:

J. T. Brown, local contractor, is repainting the exterior of the Salinas City Hall, the woodwork and dome.

Allied Painters of Oakland has started painting the maintenance buildings just completed at the county hospital. One local man has been engaged and more will be hired later.

McIntyre Painting Service has started painting of the building on Monterey Avenue which formerly housed the Salinas Californian, this building being remodeled to house a new unit of the Carl Voss automobile firm.

Magee Painting Co. of Santa Cruz has asked for men from Local 1104 for painting of the Newhall and Pajaro schools, at the northern end of the county.

Wharton Linoleum Shop of Salinas will do floor covering for two homes being built by Tynan Lumber Co. in the Rodeo Tract.

Melvin Winthrop, of Salinas Linoleum Co., reports that the firm is closing its South Main Street shop and will re-open later in a downtown location.

Labor Plans Rodeo Parade Float Entry

Plans for entering a float in the Colmo Del Rodeo parade, which is a nighttime highlight of the annual California Rodeo at Salinas, were outlined last week by officials of the Central Labor Council of Monterey County, which has headquarters in Salinas.

Council Secretary William G. Kenyon said that the council has authorized a special committee to proceed with construction of a suitable float and has instructed him to take necessary steps to enter the float in the parade.

Named to the float committee were Carl Lara, secretary of Painters Union 1104, committee chairman; Randolph Fenchel, president of Laborers Union 272; Bertha A. Boles, secretary of Culinary Alliance 467; George R. Harter, business agent of Carpenter Union 925 and Secretary Kenyon.

In discussing the proposed float, Lara said that the committee has agreed that a replica of the world-famous "handshake" insignia of the American Federation of Labor should be built and mounted on a flower-covered background.

The committee already has purchased necessary equipment for building the float and actual construction is to start at once, he added. The parade is June 18.

In past years, organized labor in the Salinas area has entered colorful floats in parades at Rodeo time, often winning trophies for the entries.

Union Opens Big Health Center

Boston, Mass.—A \$585,000 health center to provide free diagnostic care for 15,000 workers in Boston and eastern Massachusetts was opened by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, AFL.

At a banquet marking the opening, David Dubinsky, president of ILGWU, pointed out that the center was the ninth of its kind sponsored by the union.

"The employers and the community as a whole," he said, "have come to realize the tremendous obligation industry owes to the workers who labor in its shops and mills. The health of those workers is the largest, most valuable single resource contributing to the wealth of this nation."

The clinic was financed by a 2 per cent payroll levy on employers. The union locals taxed themselves to raise \$100,000 to defray initial expenses.

500 At Kid Show, Next One June 4

Here Are Your Representatives

(Use home address when Legislature or Congress is in recess.)

U. S. Senator Sheridan Downey
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Home: 100 McAllister St.
San Francisco, Calif.

U. S. Senator Wm. F. Knowland
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Home: Tribune Tower
Oakland, Calif.

Congressman E. K. Bramblett
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Home: 549 Hillcrest Ave.
Pacific Grove, Calif.

State Senator Fred Weybret
The State Capitol
Sacramento, Calif.

Home: 22 Hawthorne St.
Salinas, Calif.

Assemblyman James W. Sulliman
The State Capitol
Sacramento, Calif.

Home: 236 Hawthorne St.
Salinas, Calif.

Work Continues Good for Union Laborers Here

Employment prospects for members of Laborers Union 272 of Salinas continued to be above average, according to J. B. McGinley, business agent of the union.

Fifteen more laborers were called to the P. G. & E. steam plant project at Moss Landing last week.

Valley Trenching Co. of Fresno has started sewer installations for the new housing project in the Rodeo Tract, using eight local men. Cement Contractor Ray Adams of Salinas has started a curb and gutter installation project in the new Tynan Subdivision on East Alisal Street.

Grading and leveling of the site for the new Sanborn School is nearly completed and Contractor Leonard English of Santa Cruz will call for laborers shortly, McGinley concluded.

Painters Donate For Boy Scout Hall in Carmel

Members of Monterey Painters Union 272 donated labor last week to paint the Boy Scout House in Carmel, according to union Business Agent James Bolin.

Despite threatening weather and rainfall of the night before, some 50 union painters turned out to paint the hall in the Carmel "clean-up" campaign.

Last month, some 60 members of Local 272 donated their services to paint the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall in New Monterey, Bolin added.

ILGWU Vice-President Receives Italian Award

New York.—Edward Molisani, vice president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, received an award from the Italian government for his part in raising \$1,000,000 for relief work in Italy. He was presented with the Star of Solidarity, the most prized medal conferred by Italy upon noncitizens, by Italian Ambassador Alberto Tarchiani.

Accepting the award, Molisani, who is manager of the Italian Cloak Makers Union, Local 48, pledged his union to continue Italian aid. He said:

"The war years have created in us a deep realization of the fact that each and every one of us is his brother's keeper."

Greater Health Benefits Won by AFM Musicians

Philadelphia.—Members of the Philadelphia Orchestra represented by Local 77 of the American Federation of Musicians won new health benefits and higher travel allowances under terms of a contract covering the 1949-50 season.

The new health clause grants musicians full pay for up to 4 weeks of illness, if they have less than 5 years of service with the orchestra. For each year more than 5, an additional week's pay is allowed.

Ozols Named Permanently As IBEW B.A.

Karl Ozols, president of Electrical Workers Union 243 of Salinas for the past year and acting business representative since resignation of Carl Lara recently, has been named permanently to the business agent post, it was announced last week.

In a report on conditions for electrical workers of Local 243, Ozols said that 18 more men are being sent to Moss Landing for the P.G.&E. project, bringing to 50 the number of electricians on this job.

Electrical workers are nearly finished with their portion of the hospital addition construction near Salinas.

Two electricians are completing work on the Soledad prison buildings.

Negotiations for a new agreement covering members of Local 243 are under way, Ozols added. These negotiations are being conducted with representatives of the National Electrical Contractors Association.

International representatives of the IBEW have been visiting the Salinas area in recent weeks and have made frequent contact with union officials, Ozols reports.

Next meeting of Local 243 will be held on Wednesday, June 1, and a big turnout is requested, he concluded.

In Union Circles

Dale E. Ward, financial secretary of Carpenters Union 1323 of Monterey, and his wife, Mrs. Myrtle Ward, are on an extended vacation trip by automobile to the state of Michigan to visit relatives and friends.

Business Representative Fred S. Miller of the Monterey County Building Trades Council is making plans for a vacation trip in mid-June. He and his wife will travel to Canada, it is reported.

S. M. ("Tommy") Thomas, business agent of Monterey Laborers Union 690, was in San Francisco last weekend to attend a business meeting of the Northern California District Council of Laborers. Thomas was accompanied by his family, which toured the big city during his business sessions.

Carl Lara, who is planning the Salinas labor movement's entry in the coming parade of the California Rodeo, is getting into a lot of good-natured kidding of late. Lara purchased a quantity of chicken wire netting for use in building the float and his friends and co-workers have teased him about entering the chicken business, even to the extent of placing orders with him for eggs and chicken dinners.

Although Al Clark, business agent and secretary of Salinas Bartenders Union 545, is back on his job after an operation in a local hospital, his friends report that he isn't finished with the hospital—he may have to return for treatment or possibly more surgery, it is reported. 'Wasn't once enough, Al?

YMCA Calls Bids for New Swimming Pool

Bids from contractors for construction of the new YMCA swimming pool in the rear of the present YMCA quarters in Salinas will be opened on June 10, it was announced last week after Architect Charles E. Butler submitted final plans for the pool.

The pool is expected to be completed by mid-September. It will be 75 feet long, 35 feet wide, regulation size for swimming meets and pageantry. Two diving boards, one and three meter, will be provided. Water purification equipment is planned also.

This is the second unit in the YMCA building program. Next projects will include housing for the swimming pool, a gymnasium and craft shops.

Teamsters' Kiddie Klub Given Praise

Second big showing of the Teamsters' Kiddie Klub was held last Saturday with more than 500 children attending as word of the fine entertainment and prize gets around and as parents and civic leaders of the area re-emphasize their praise of this splendid contribution to community morale by Teamsters and Warehousemen's Local Union 890.

"It is a source of great pleasure to the Teamsters, each and every one of us, to have a hand in an effort like this," said a statement issued by President Albert Harris and officers of Local 890. "Happy, constructively-occupied children are the foundation of stable community life, in the same way that good, constructive unionism contributes to harmony and prosperity of the community."

Among those made happiest by last Saturday's fine show at the high school auditorium were two girls who received the most attractive pets available, a kitten and a springer spaniel puppy. Gale McKenzie, 12, of the 6th grade at Fremont, received the kitten, and Dolores Farrell, 9, of the 3rd grade at Roosevelt, received the puppy. TO AWARD BICYCLE

These awards are open to all children attending, and at the next show, to be held in the high school auditorium on June 4, many fine gifts will be given, including a brand new bicycle.

Teamster Kiddie Klub buttons can be seen all over town these days, as word of the Teamster shows spread around, and all children are looking forward to the next show on June 4.

Another fine program was presented at Saturday's second show, and still more features are planned for the next event. Leave it to the Teamsters to keep the program varied and lively.

Schools will continue their cooperation by announcing the next show to children, and the high school board is demonstrating its fullest endorsement of these events by granting use of the high school auditorium.

Remember the next show, Saturday, June 4. Plan to come and bring your friends, for a lot of fun and laughs and prizes.

LABOR COUNCIL REPORTS

Monterey County Central Labor Union, W. G. Kenyon, Secretary
The Monterey County Central Labor Union at Salinas has decided to enter a float in the Colmo Del Rodeo parade in connection with the California Rodeo, June 16-19.

A committee is hard at work making plans for this float and all union people are urged to give whatever help they can, if called upon by the committee, which is headed by Carl Lara.

Protest has been sent to the State Board of Prison Correction against this board's refusal to cooperate with Salinas unions which have protested use of convict labor on state prison construction.

The project at Soledad, which will be started shortly, a \$10,000,000 new prison, is expected to be a contract job with free labor, but present work is being done partly by union members and partly by prisoners. Before this council protested, it was all by convict labor. Two union officials are on the prison board, Anthony Noriega, former president of the State Federation of Labor, and O. T. Satree, official of the Wilmington labor council.

The letter of protest was sent by the council to Satree and asks that they be on the lookout for use of convict labor in competition with free labor.

Ross Garchime, president of the Salinas Optimist Club, has sent a letter of thanks to the labor council here for sponsorship of three boys to the club's summer camp at Arroyo Seco.

These sponsorships cost \$17.50 and anyone can help this fine program for the youngsters by contacting the Optimist Club or this Council.

Delegates to the labor council are urged to attend meetings regularly. No council is better than its delegates and they are only at their best when they attend regularly.

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PRESS COMMITTEE AT SALINAS
A. A. Harris, Teamsters J. L. Parsons, Barbers R. Fenchel, Laborers

PRESS COMMITTEE AT MONTEREY
Wayne Edwards, Representing Central Labor Council
Dale Ward, Representing Building Council.

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WHY LABOR STARTS NOW?

There is a sound reason for labor unions starting now to organize their forces on the political field for the primary and general elections that are to take place in 1950. It is a painful memory that past experience has demonstrated that labor unions have little or no effect on elections when they wait till a few days before the election is to be held. The preliminary contacting of voters, which should have been in full swing for fully a year before the primaries are held, has in the past been left largely to the hired henchmen of big business to make in their own way. When labor finally woke up to the fact that an election was at hand the cards were all stacked, the tools of big business were all carefully picked for all vital places on the ballot, the bulk of the work to swing the election the way it was wanted by big business was already done and labor's voice simply got nowhere at that stage.

By starting a year ahead of time, as labor is now doing all over the United States, a very different story may be told of the elections of 1950, especially if practically every member of organized labor comes to a realization that there is work to do that only he or his wife can perform. It is tremendously important that this work be done as soon as possible, otherwise it more than likely will remain undone, with the enemies of labor doing the lining up instead. Every man or woman, who carries a union card, is needed on the political front for duty.

CHANGE CONGRESS OR SINK

Unless the common people of this country awaken to a realization that the present lawmaking body of Congress is very much against them and for that reason must be replaced by a different type of Congressmen the average workingman and his family face dark days in the much too near future.

It is clear as daylight that the majority of the present House of Representatives is made up of anti-labor people, who have no inclination to repeal the Taft-Hartley slave law or do much else in really making good the other pledges of the Democratic party, which was placed in control of our government on the strength of those pledges.

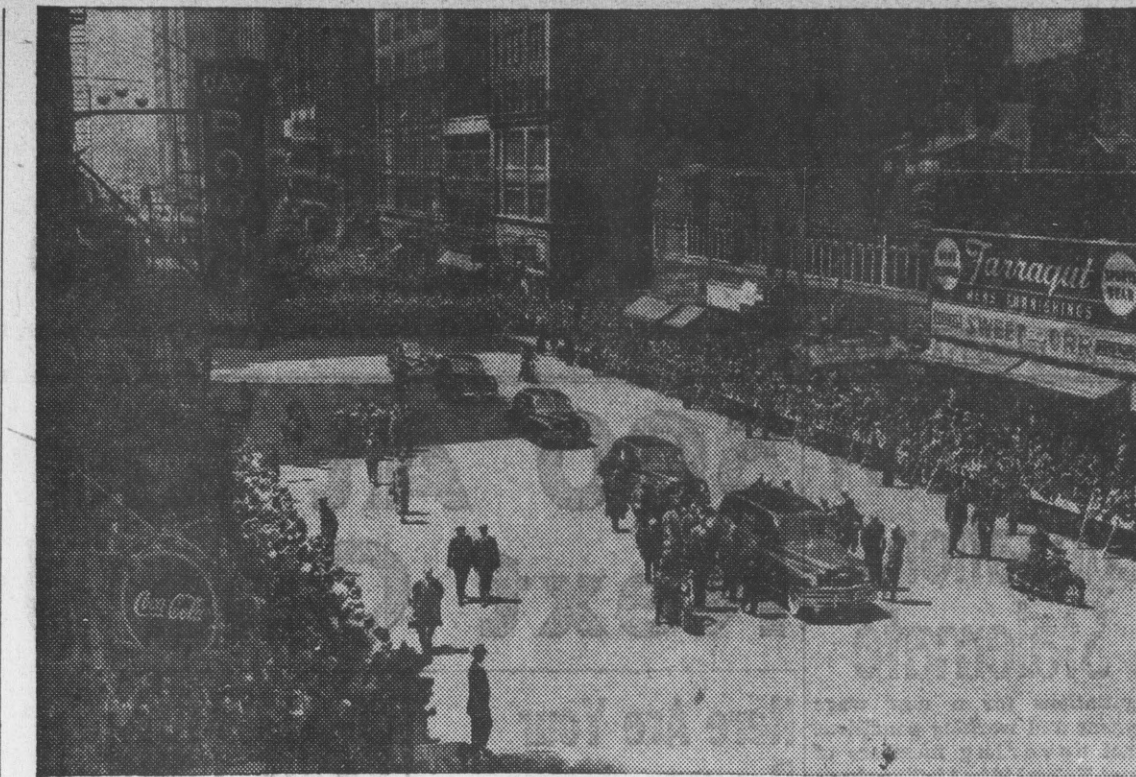
In the hands of the common people, most of whom are workers or members of their families, lies the power to change the present situation. There are far more than enough of ordinary people, who are eligible to vote, to change all this in 1950, first by not permitting the unfaithful present lawmakers to get renominated in the primaries and those bad eggs who make that hurdle should encounter redoubled effort on the part of the plain people to eliminate them in the November election. If the common people don't do this in 1950 they will pay dearly for letting the tools of big business continue to run Congress.

NOT ALL PRICES COMING DOWN

Although there has been a number of prices that have come down slightly there are entirely too many that have gone up just lately. However, the total amount of price increases is slightly smaller than the total decreases thus making the net result of the total average of all prices since last September one that since then has been decreasing slightly from month to month. As a result any further price increases from now on are pretty apt to encounter increasing buyer resistance. Besides there is no longer the enormous scarcity of goods that made it comparatively easy to boost prices as soon as controls were lifted in 1946. For nearly three years business generally has been on a sellers spree but present indications are that all the artificial practices used to boost prices are beginning to have an increasingly tough time to keep the prices soaring, however, quite a few profiteers are still trying to boost the prices in the hope that the traffic will bear it for a while.

UNEMPLOYMENT BECKONS AGAIN

Since prewar days the problem of unemployment practically suspended operations till the past winter when there was a peak of more than three million unemployed again. In the years that lie ahead nobody knows how much or how little unemployment there is to be, but the chances are that it will become far greater than it was last winter. Both workers and employers should be aware of these probabilities and it would be quite in order to do a lot of serious thinking in regard to what can be done about it in case the situation becomes as acute or worse than it was during the early 30's. Nobody, but the most unscrupulous, likes unemployment. All workers dread it as do all who depend upon the buying power of the wage earners for their prosperity. But if it comes we have to face it, whether we like it or not. We should not hesitate to shorten the workday rather than let millions be forced into the bread lines.



Apprentice Training As Important As Military Training, Secty. Tobin States at Oakland Mass Graduation

In his speech Tuesday, May 17, before 876 graduating apprentices at the second annual Mass Graduation of Apprentices at Oakland Auditorium, Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin emphasized the importance of apprentice training by saying: "I have stated before, and I repeat, the training of apprentices for the skilled trades is just as important to the security of the Nation as is the training of our military forces."

Secretary Tobin gave high praise to members of joint apprenticeship committees by saying: "Congratulations are due the members of the joint apprenticeship committees—about 55 in all with a total membership of about 330 men—because you have performed a most valuable service to your respective trades, to your community, and to your Nation."

He gave special praise to the apprentices for the long and arduous course of work-experience they undertook supplemented by technical school training, "and because you stuck to it to successful completion."

He pointed out that the "outstanding" service rendered by ev-



MAURICE J. TOBIN,

everyone concerned could not have been accomplished had not their respective organizations granted them the authority to act and set up apprentice programs.

"It was fortunate for the Nation that many of our unions and many of our employers of skilled labor had the foresight to see the need for an adequate skilled labor force," Tobin said. "But while they saw the need—as can readily be confirmed by only a cursory examination of convention records over a period of years—they also came to realize that the problem of maintaining an adequate skilled labor force, in terms of both quantity and quality, was of such great dimensions that there was need for partnership with Government in order to get the job done."

Secretary Tobin condemned the erroneous belief that with the advent of mass production the value of skills and technical knowledge was unnecessary and the need for skilled craftsmen disappeared.

"This notion, no doubt, derives from the fact that the actual production of goods has passed from hand skills to the machine," the Secretary of Labor said. "However, the machine has to be made, and it has to be maintained. Furthermore, mass production must be provided with patterns, dies, jigs, and castings, all of which are the products of the skills of the craftsmen. The cry for craftsmen during the war and the demand for skilled workers since the war, in both manufacturing and construction, should be ample proof of the need for the workers the apprenticeship program is turning out." Our war experience, particularly, should serve as a warning and a potent lesson. We won the war by winning the battle of production."

Farm Employment Up

Washington.—Farm employment increased 750,000 in April, but still was 4 per cent under a year ago, the Agriculture Department reported. Farm employment was put at 11,089,000 for the week ended April 23. Of this total, 2,011,000 were hired workers.

PAY TRIBUTE TO SLAIN ORGANIZER—Members of the Intl. Ladies Garment Workers Union (AFL) walk in silent tribute behind the coffin of 40-year-old William Lurye, ILGWU organizer who was stabbed in a phone booth in New York's garment district. The workers, out on a 4-hour work stoppage, were told by Pres. David Dubinsky that the union would keep faith with Lurye by continuing the campaign to organize open shop holdouts.

So. Cal. Wage Cut Beaten

San Diego.—Two major attempts by bosses to wipe out last year's wage gains by labor have been rebuffed here.

The San Diego Chapter, National Electrical Contractors Association, insisted that 600 electricians take a pay cut of 12½ cents an hour, "rolling back" wages to the 1947-48 level of \$2.25 an hour.

Local B-569, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL, contended that a 12½-cent increase to \$2.50 an hour was necessary to bring pay scales in line with other crafts in the area. Employers agreed to send the dispute to the industry's National Council of Industrial Relations, confident of a decision at most maintaining the \$2.37½ pay level.

But the council, composed of contractor as well as labor representatives, upheld the union position 100 per cent, and awarded the \$2.50 rate at an arbitration hearing in Atlantic City, N. J.

Another assault on pay standards fizzled when the Associated General Contractors abandoned efforts to cut back pay of six basic crafts 13½ cents an hour, also to the 1947-48 level.

With negotiations still continuing over union demands of boosts ranging from 20 cents to 53 cents an hour, the contractors now are offering retention of the present wages for 100,000 southern California carpenters, iron workers, laborers, teamsters, cement finishers and operating engineers.

Bldg. Jobs High, But Homes Sag

Washington.—Employment in contract construction was 1,965,000 in mid-April, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said here May 14, about 32,000 above the job rate in the same month last year. But the number of home-building starts to date in 1949 has been 13 per cent below the 1948 level.

BLS noted, however, that the estimated value of all new construction (\$1,368 million) in April was slightly less than for the corresponding month of 1948. There has been a 15 per cent drop in the value of private home building in the first four months of 1949 compared to the same period last year. Private industrial construction has gone down 19 per cent from the 1948 level, and commercial building has slumped 7 per cent.

Making up the difference, according to BLS figures, has been a 53 per cent gain in other kinds of private non-residential building, such as educational, recreational, religious, and hospital and institutional construction. Public construction this year has been 42 per cent higher than last year's record for the first four months, also paced by educational and institutional building.

Foreign Aid Buying Tops \$5 Billion

Washington.—Foreign aid purchases totaling \$5,498,187,000 have been authorized under the Marshall Plan, the Economic Corporation Administration announced.

Some \$306,076,000 in procurement authorizations were granted during the week for finished goods and such raw materials as metals, oil, chemicals, machinery and foodstuffs.

GRIN or GROAN

He: "I just got a letter from my wife. She ran off with my best friend."
Him: "That's awful. Was he rich and handsome?"
He: "Dunno. I never met him."

Three slightly deaf men were motoring from the north to London in a noisy old car, and hearing was difficult. As they were nearing the city, one asked: "Is this Wembley?"
"No," replied the second, "this is Thursday."

"So am I," put in the third, "let's stop and have one."

Three student nurses were very late getting back to the hospital one night. As they slipped in they met three internes coming out. "Shh!" said the nurses, "we've been out after hours."

"Shh!" said the internes, "we're going out after ours."

"Hey, your shoes are mixed. You got the left shoe on the right foot!"
"Well, whadda ya know! And for 20 years I been thinking I was club-footed!"

"I often sit and meditate, Upon the sorry trick of fate That keeps me still a celibate."

Oh, what a still.
I want a 10der maid sed8,
To love and be my m8.
My fortitude is not so gr8,
Make haste; I cannot w8.
Oh, f8 b9! b4 2 18,
Believe my awful single s88,
And when I've 1 this maid sed8,
We then will oscu8.

Mother: "Now before you get serious with him, be sure he is always kind."

Daughter: "Oh, I'm sure he is; he told me he put his shirt on a horse that was scratched!"

Glamour Girl: "Why, yes, I'll endorse your cigar for \$50,000."
Advertising Agent: "I'll see you inhale first."

Old Lady—Here's a penny, my poor man. How did you become so destitute?

Beggar—I was like you, mum—always giving away vast sums to the poor and needy.

The sailor had just given his wife a beautiful skunk coat as a gift.
"I can't see," she murmured, "how such a fine coat comes from such a foul-smelling beast."

Wearily the sailor replied: "I don't ask for thanks, dear, but I do demand respect."

Fortune does not change men; it only unmasks them.—Riccoboni.

A citizen was walking up Fifth Avenue when he was buttonholed by a character who said: "Shay! Can you tell me where to find Alcoholish Anonymous?"

"Why? Do you want to join?"

"No. Wanna resign?"

"How do you keep your children out of the cookie jar?"

"I lock the pantry door and hide the key under the cake of soap in the bathroom."

"That modernistic artist says he can't paint a stroke if there is anybody around while he is trying to work."

"Well, be sure not to leave him alone for a single minute."

Fond mother (to sister)—"Did you have any trouble with Junior? He usually is as good as gold."
Sister—"Well, about an hour ago he went off the gold standard."

Carpenters Strike In Philly Area

Philadelphia.—Refusal of building contractors here to raise wage rates over those in effect last year brought a strike of carpenters that shut down commercial and industrial building in the five-county Philadelphia area May 16.

The old rate of \$2.25 an hour without any other improvements in the contract was all the employers offered after weeks of negotiations. The walkout of the Metropolitan District Council of Carpenters (AFL) was the result. Home building contractors had offered a four per cent increase, which also was rejected.

Carpenters on millwork voted to hold out for an increase of 10 cents an hour to \$1.80, the offer made by several independent millwork operators. The Mill Owners Association and the Quaker City Lumber Products Association also have refused to grant an increase. Union officials said negotiations would continue with individual millwork operators on the basis of the 10-cent raise.

Home construction has been slowing down considerably here, due to the simple fact that Philadelphians don't have the money to meet inflated housing prices caused by high material costs and profit margins.

The Leading Cotton State

The state of Texas leads all other states in the Union in the production of cotton. It also holds first place in output of grain sorghum, onions, pecans and produces large quantities of many other agricultural products.

Union Gains In Battle for Shorter Week

Chicago.—An AFL local union of 500 employees of tobacco wholesalers is the latest to win the five-day week in the general movement of organized labor to clean up in localized industry the practices forbidden to interstate industry by the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Local 761, Tobacco and Cigarette Salesmen, Drivers, Helpers and Inside Workers, a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, was granted a five-day, 44-hour week with the same take-home pay formerly given for a six-day, 48-hour week.

At the convention of the Laundry Workers International Union, recently held in Chicago, Sam J. Byers of Indianapolis, president of the international, stressed the importance of shorter hours and welfare measures, although low wages also are a serious problem in the laundry industry.

At the convention of the huge Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union and Bartenders' International League, also held in Chicago, President Hugo Ernst credited the non-operating railroad unions for breaking down some ancient arguments on the six-day and seven-day week.

In the Middle West, a large percentage of organized hotel and restaurant workers already are covered by contracts providing for time and a half after 40 hours, though exempt from the federal wage and hour law.

Cincinnati recently achieved a universal five-day week. Minneapolis has a 40-hour week for all crafts in restaurants serving liquor.

HEALTH AND SECURITY
At the moment, the trend in collective bargaining in the Middle West is to emphasize welfare, health, pension and security demands, rather than wages. The Milk Drivers and Dairy Workers locals in Chicago are pressing for improved pensions. So is the Chicago street car men's local, which expects an arbitrator's decision any day now in its dispute with the Chicago Transit Authority.

Samuel Laderman, general manager of Local 241, Chemical Workers Union, mentioned cultural and recreational benefits as a bargaining matter as delegates of 30 locals representing 15,000 workers in Illinois gathered for an annual planning conference.

"Programs for the intellectual and emotional development of workers are equally as important as those concerned with ordinary health needs," said Laderman. "Employers have a responsibility in their financing, since they will benefit by a worker's well-being."

Musical entertainment usually is provided at meetings of Laderman's local, as at the regular monthly meetings of the big AFL Electrical Workers Union in Chicago.

Mass. AFL Fights Insurance Firms

Boston.—"Stop profits from human misery and death!" That's the battle cry raised by the Massachusetts Federation of Labor in an annual struggle being waged here against insurance firms.

Organized labor is fighting for legislation to establish an exclusive state fund to handle payments under the state workmen's compensation law. At present, private insurance companies collect the premiums from employers and pay out less than 55 per cent of the benefits to victims of industrial accidents.

The insurance companies have established a united front against the proposed law and they have flooded the state with propaganda to the effect that such a measure would bring "state socialism" to Massachusetts. Also, their lobbyists have been overrunning the state-house.

You Can't Win: S.F. Foods Drop a Little, Rents Rise

With the exception of rents and miscellaneous items, the price level of all major consumer items in San Francisco decreased between December 15, 1948 and March 15, 1949, according to Max D. Kossoris, regional director of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. The March index of 174.6 was 2.1 index points, or 1.2 per cent, below the December index of 176.1. The all-time peak of 177.1 was reached in September 1948. The index measures changes in the cost prices paid by consumers, and uses the monthly averages for the years 1935-39 as 100.

Rents increased by 0.3 per cent during the quarter. But over-all food prices decreased by 2.2 per cent, coming within one-half per cent of their March 1948 level. Apparel prices were down 3.1 per cent from December levels as a result of generally lower prices for clothing and other apparel accessories such as hose, shirts, shoes, slacks and pajamas. The apparel index actually dropped to 0.9 per cent below that of March a year ago.

ICE COST THAWS
The index for fuel, electricity and refrigeration remained almost unchanged during the quarter, being down only 0.1 per cent to an index point of 82.7. The decrease is accounted for entirely by a 1.0 per cent lower price level for ice.

Household furnishings prices decreased by 1.8 per cent to an index of 166.6 which is 0.9 per cent above the comparable level of a year ago. Major price decreases during the last quarter were reported for refrigerators, washing machines, stoves, various furniture items and curtains. Some furniture items, however, such as living room suites and dinette sets, were higher in March than in December.

The price level of miscellaneous items was up 0.9 per cent to an index of 165.6. This group also represents the largest increase, 5.7 per cent, above the comparable index for March 1948. During the last quarter prices rose for transit fares, gasoline, postage, and dentist's services, but decreased for laundry and toilet soaps.

MEATS UP, DAIRY DOWN
In comparison with the preceding February prices for foods, the March index of 216.3 was 1.4 per cent lower. This average decrease, however, was the result of a number of divergent price movements. Meat prices were up 2.2 per cent, sugar 1.0 per cent, cereals and bakery products 0.7 per cent, and beverages 0.2 per cent. But prices of dairy products went down by 1.6 per cent, eggs by 6.5 per cent, fats and oils by 2.3 per cent, and fruits and vegetables by 5.8 per cent. The decrease in this last group, however, again was the result of mixed trends: the fresh varieties were down by as much as 7.0 per cent, and the dried by 1.8 per cent, whereas canned goods were up 1.9 per cent.

The U.S. consumers' price index for March went up one-half point, or by 0.3 per cent, over its February level. In comparison with the 1.2 per cent decrease for San Francisco during the December-March quarter, the national index decreased by 1.1 per cent.

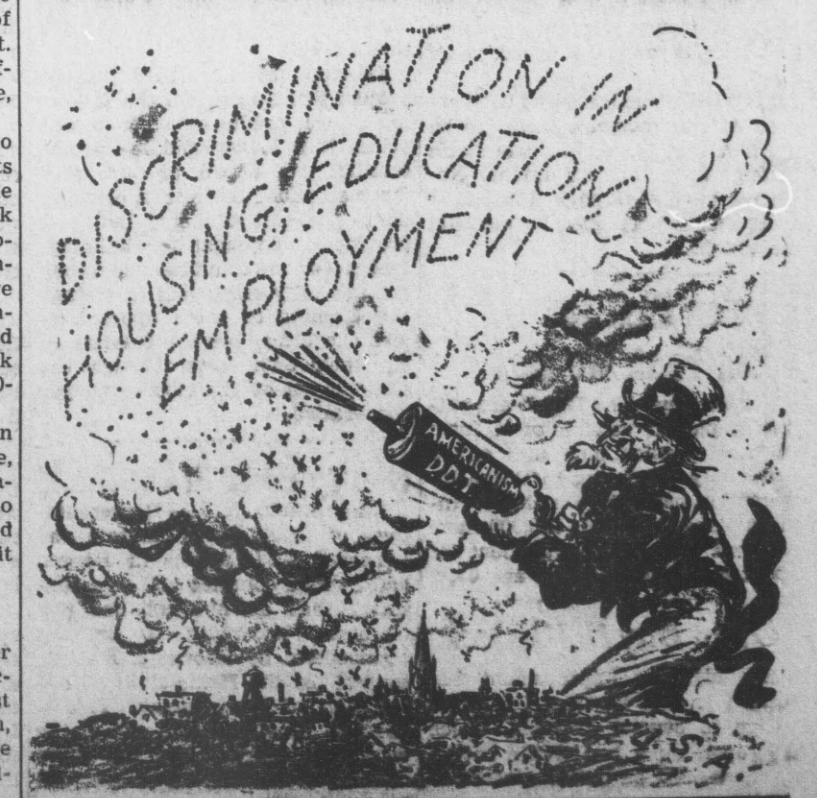
N. J. Union Painters Set Speed Record

New Brunswick, N. J.—AFL union painters here set a world's record when 96 men completely painted the exterior of a five-room house in two minutes and thirty-six seconds.

The voluntary action by the painters was part of a community campaign to build a home for Robert W. Hoelzle, a paraplegic war veteran. More than 1,000 persons have donated in one way or another and all actual construction work has been done by volunteer union workmen over weekends.

The painters are members of Local 834 of the Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers Union (AFL).

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Carpenter ROUNDUP

Carpenters Union 925
Salinas, California

Business Representative George R. Harter of Carpenters Union 925 of Salinas was in Modesto last week to attend the negotiations meeting between representatives of the California State Council of Carpenters and of the Associated General Contractors.

Harter reports that Barney Mayes, formerly statistician with the State Federation of Labor, has been engaged to assist in contract matters. The contract being negotiated will cover 42 unions in the Northern and Central California area.

Thirty more carpenters have been called to Moss Landing by Stone & Webster Corp. for work on the new P. G. & E. steam generating plant.

Work has improved for union carpenters and more men may be needed in the area soon if employment continues, Harter said.

Improved employment prospects are in view for the Salinas area, Harter reports. Unemployed carpenters are no longer as evident and the future is bright for members of Local 925.

All carpenters are reminded that their unemployment cards are checked by the union only at 8 a. m. on their report days. This will apply only to a few members, but these should be sure to be at the union hall early on report days and to check with the union frequently for jobs, now more plentiful.

Contractor Leonard English of Santa Cruz is completing grading and leveling of the site for the Sanborn School and will call carpenters shortly.

No Depression, Says U. S. Chamber

Washington.—Millions of U. S. workers watching diminishing pay envelopes and increasing unemployment might be thinking about the possibility of a depression.

But the 2000 members of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce who gathered here for the 5-day 37th annual meeting ending May 5 in the Statler Hotel don't see it that way at all.

As Pres. Earl O. Shreve of the chamber puts it: "A return to price controls and other market restraints would delay and perhaps halt the transition from abnormal boom conditions to a more solid and orderly pattern of prosperity."

To him business and markets are just making a transition to normalcy and will continue to do so. "Business recession from the post-war peaks," he says, "is the inevitable readjustment of supply and demand to normal market conditions."

And he thinks, rising unemployment notwithstanding, that "this change brings overdue relief to millions of consumers who have been squeezed between high taxes and high living costs."

The C of C delegates made the usual public speeches about the public welfare and their concern for the economic, political and social liberty of the individual.

In private they fumed against the idea of broadening social security, legislating a national health program, and the high cost of government. They left the convention sessions in great numbers to watch the House developments on T-H repeal legislation. Though guards always insist that labor delegate visitors remove all marks of identification before entering the galleries, many of the big C of C badges were in evidence there.

William F. Cody, great American frontiersman and guide, was familiarly known as "Buffalo Bill."

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IMPORTANT, ALL PRODUCE DRIVERS — A special meeting will be called for your group very soon regarding the 1949 agreement. As this goes to press, your Negotiating Committee is meeting with the Grower-Shippers regarding the new contract. You will be officially notified when such a meeting will be held.

More than 500 children attended last Saturday's second Teamsters Kiddies Klub show. Next one is on June 4. For more details, see article on page 1.

BLOOD BANK
Your Union has contacted the local chapter of the American Red Cross, requesting that a blood bank be established in Salinas so that in cases of emergency anyone who is in need of blood in or out of Labor will be taken care of. In a short time, and in the event such a blood bank is established, a blood bank committee will be set up from this Union in order that the blood bank gets off to a fine start. We have in our files several hundred members of various blood types; and it is our duty to co-operate wholeheartedly since this is such an important measure for the good of the community. The Teamsters have established blood banks in other cities in the west and have met with great success.

Are you in good standing? Remember, if you fail to pay your dues by the 15th of the month you are not a member in good standing.

Have you changed your address? If so, please notify the office of the Union.

Are you a registered voter? Remember, in order to participate and vote in any election, you must be a registered voter. You may register at the office of the Union. Are you receiving the International magazine? Have you received your insurance policy? PATRONIZE UNION SERVICES ONLY—WATCH FOR THE UNION SHOP CARD.

VETS NEWS

All veterans making insurance premium payments use the yellow envelope which is provided to mail in their payments.

In event the VA envelope is not received, a veteran should mail his remittance to the following address: Veterans Administration District INSURANCE SERVICE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION DISTRICT OFFICE 180 NEW MONTGOMERY ST. SAN FRANCISCO 5, CALIF.

All veterans are urged to identify their payments by writing their insurance number clearly on the remittance. Each month several hundred payments are received that are not immediately identifiable because of failure to do this, and this entails considerable delay in sending out receipts. The VA Insurance Service still holds several thousand payments that have not been identified because of lack of information.

Veterans planning to take summer courses under the GI Bill should be sure their eligibility is currently effective, according to Manager R. P. Shields of the San Francisco Regional Office of the Veterans Administration.

Those who plan to use their benefit for the first time should apply as soon as possible for a certificate of eligibility if one is not already at hand. If the certificate at hand was issued before September 1, 1948, it should be taken to the nearest VA office and a new-type certificate applied for.

It is most important that you channel your money to places that are Union and employ members of your Union.

Our fight continues against Texhoma Cab Company. This company has violated something that is sacred to the Labor movement, by writing a back-door agreement with the C.I.O. while our men were on the picket line to be reinstated as a result of their discharge for Union activities. This company and its subsidiaries, Ace, City and Dependable Cabs, are working under a phony contract with no guarantees, straight commission, no vacations or conditions, and longer hours in excess of those contained in legitimate contracts with your Union and Black and White Cab Company, Yellow Cab, Checker Cab, and Packard Cab Company.

Your Union has an opportunity to make a deal with the Texhoma Cab Company, but your Union is opposed to any deal which affects the worker or is not fair to a legitimate employer.

QUESTION: I am a veteran of World War II and have a bad conduct discharge which is neither honorable nor dishonorable, but VA has denied me compensation because of it. Isn't VA bound by the character of discharge given me by the Army?
ANSWER: No. Under existing law, to be entitled to benefit under laws administered by VA, a World War II veteran must have been discharged or released from active service under conditions other than dishonorable. Where the discharge, as in your case, is neither honorable nor dishonorable, the VA must make a determination as to whether it is under other than dishonorable conditions.

QUESTION: I am considered totally disabled for insurance purposes but receive only 20 percent for disability compensation payments. Can my award be increased?
ANSWER: Your award can be increased only if the service-connected disability is shown to have increased in severity. For insurance purposes, not service-connected, which, when combined with your service-connected condition, produce total disability.

QUESTION: Must all my evidence to reopen my claim before VA be notarized?
ANSWER: Yes, if it is submitted on the subject of service-connection. Statements from physicians, submitter for the purpose of determining whether a physical examination should be requested, need not be notarized.

QUESTION: Would the amount of compensation I receive from VA

WATCH FOR THE SHOP CARD.

ATTENTION, VAN AND STORAGE DRIVERS: A special meeting is being called for your group at the Union Office, 274 E. Alisal St., Salinas, on Wednesday, May 25, at 8:00 p.m., to vote on company's proposals for the 1949 Van and Storage agreement. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU ATTEND.

THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED:
The regular meeting for Salinas will be held at the Moose Hall on June 14, that being the second Tuesday of the month.

For those residing in the Monterey area, the Monterey meeting will be held on Thursday, June 16, at 315 Alvarado Street.

Shop Stewards meeting is scheduled at the Union Office, Salinas, on Tuesday, May 24.

Van and Storage Drivers special meeting at the Union Office, Salinas, on Wednesday, May 25, at 8:00 p.m.

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Vets Battle For 52-20

Washington.—Cutting off the veterans unemployment compensation program this coming July 25 is unfair to the boys "for whom the best was none too good," declares Nathan Cowan, a union legislative representative.

Cowan has put his union on record behind the Huber Bill, HR-1374, which would continue eligibility of veterans for the so-called 52-20 club payments for another five years, to July 25, 1954. The measure, introduced by Representative Walter Huber (D., Ohio), has not been given a hearing by the House Veterans Affairs Committee because its chairman, Representative John Rankin (D., Miss.), has been obsessed with pushing through a pension bill at the expense of other legislation.

Cowan pointed out that cutting off the program is unjust in a period of increasing unemployment. Despite the high employment rate since the war, about 60 per cent of the eligible veterans have made claims for unemployment compensation under the G-I Bill of Rights, and a million of the 15 million veterans covered by the measure have exhausted their full year's entitlement.

John Hopkins University, a great American medical institution, located near Baltimore, Md., was founded in 1876 by John Hopkins, an American philanthropist.

LABOR MARKET BULLETIN

(State Dept. of Employment, Salinas, Calif.)

Summary.—While there was an increase in employment during April, the rise was moderate and very gradual until the last few days of the month, when the beginning of iceberg lettuce packing accelerated hiring in the area. The yield and quality of this crop are excellent and it will probably afford job opportunities for as many workers as last year, in spite of a smaller acreage.

Industrial and commercial construction is at a higher level, and gradual employment increases are anticipated throughout the summer and fall months. Agricultural conditions are favorable. Preliminary estimates indicate that there will be an increase of from 1,500 to 2,000 persons gainfully employed during this summer and fall as compared with a year ago.

Employment Trend.—Retail outlets have added to their sales staffs in line with the normal spring pattern. Total employment will increase by about 3,000 to the third week in May and then level off. There will be fluctuations depending upon growing and marketing conditions for agricultural products, as well as material and labor supply in construction. The gradual upward trend should continue through August when substantial increases in total employment are expected until the late fall.

Unemployment Trend.—As indicated by unemployment insurance payments and servicemen's readjustment allowances, unemployment in April was almost double that of last year at the same time. Last month, an average of 4,052 persons claimed these benefits, as compared with 6,134 in March and 2,987 in April 1948.

Labor Supply and Demand.—There are indications that throughout the harvest season the balance between supply and demand for agricultural workers adapted to the local type of agriculture will be extremely close and somewhat critical at all times. Single workers experienced in stoop labor are needed immediately.

There continues to be a very considerable surplus of unskilled and semi-skilled industrial workers, both men and women. Although many of these workers are experienced in types of work requiring a high degree of finger dexterity and good vision, there are insufficient industrial activities to absorb the surplus.

There is also a surplus of salespeople and clerical workers whose skill or experience is below present employer requirements. Some shortages may develop in skilled clerical occupations and for nurses, auto body repairmen and auto painters.

Skilled construction craftsmen such as boilermakers, electricians, iron workers, pipe welders, and millwrights will be brought into the area for the construction of a large steam-electric plant at Moss Landing.

All hiring on building projects in this area is through the unions and workers should be discouraged from migrating to this area because of the scarcity of housing and the probable delay of job opportunities.

Utah Looks Forward To Colorado Water

President Truman has signed the upper Colorado River Basin Compact, which gives Utah 23 percent of the water, or 2 million feet, or an increase of 75 percent in present irrigation water, which would bring water to 600,000 acres of new land and to 400,000 acres now partly supplied. The project, if approved, will consist of nine major dams and many miles of tunnels, aqueducts, and canals, as well as extensive power facilities. Utah is pushing it strongly.

Other Utah projects underway or planned: Standard Oil refinery, pipeline, \$25 million; Utah Power steam plant, \$5 million; Univ. of Utah, \$34 million; Kennecott Copper, \$16 million electrolytic refinery.

A bucket shop is a place where the customers bet on the rise or fall of stocks or commodities.

Defense, Industry and Jobs Are Crippled by Water Power Lack

Continued delay in getting a widespread water power program into operation in the U.S., especially in the West, this month drew increasing criticism from labor, business, and elements of big business and their Charlie McCarthys in Congress that are sabotaging such a program.

With tremendous sums being spent for defense at the present time, it can be assumed that these weapons will be practically useless unless an adequate power program is developed along with them, it is pointed out.

Here in the West, we face continued restriction of industrial development, as well as adequate power for defense, by the blocking of strong water programs in the Columbia River region and the California Central Valleys.

CRIPPLES DEFENSE

The growing criticism from labor, industry, and western civic groups was summarized pointedly by a recent statement of J. Howard McGrath, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, who declared that without the power generated at Tennessee Valley, Grand Coulee, and Bonneville "we would not have had the electric power needed to produce aluminum, build ships, develop atomic energy, and construct the atomic bomb," although these three projects before the war had been "called white elephants by the critics of public power."

He declared that the aluminum industry today is forced to reduce one billion pounds of production, almost a 50 percent cut, because of lack of cheap power.

HURT LIVING STANDARDS

To get adequate defense power today, he said, we could obtain it only by cutting down the power to cities, homes, farms, and factories, which would be a blow at business profits, at employment, and at the entire standard of living.

"We are in a serious power shortage right now," he said, pointing to serious shortages in the Pacific Northwest, in upstate New York, in Cleveland, Arkansas and California, and saying that in the latter "they had daylight time all winter, consumers took 10 to 20 per cent power cuts, factories ran only four days, and sometimes irrigation pumps had to be cut off for lack of power."

We want enough electricity for homes, for expanding production, for more jobs and a better standard of living, he said.

OIL GENERATORS EXPENSIVE

"At present about 70 per cent of our electric power comes from coal or oil-fired generators. That is expensive and uses diminishing resources. The answer is more water power. Seventy-seven million kilowatts of prospective water power now runs into the oceans. Most of this could be turned into electricity through dams which also provide irrigation, control floods, and expand navigation. The time to start them is NOW."

"Already the Congress is moving in this field, restoring Republican appropriation cuts, and vetoing crippling amendments such as the GOP 80th Congress passed."

"But powerful lobbies are arrayed against these programs. They seek to hide the fact that cheap electric power is important to every section of the nation—not merely to the area in which new dams are built."

PRIVATE FIRMS FAIL

"They will seek to hide the fact that private power companies have not kept up with America's need for cheap electric power."

"When the Republicans and the power lobby open up with their old cries of socialism and communism, remember that if we are short of electric power we are short of military power and economic power."

"Without adequate electric power we are inviting aggression abroad and depression at home."

Boilermakers Map 1950 Vote Drive

Montreal.—Concluding an unusually harmonious convention, the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers reelected President Charles J. MacGowan in a stirring demonstration of confidence.

In his closing address, Mr. MacGowan called upon all the delegates to work for the election of labor's friends in the 1950 congressional campaign to assure repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act and to assure the enactment of legislation which will promote the welfare of the American people.

The convention clarified and codified the union's constitution and by-laws and voted to strengthen its organizational machinery.

After describing labor's successful efforts to defeat the Wood bill in the House of Representatives and deploring the failure of Congress to make more headway at this session on repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act, Mr. MacGowan emphasized that while labor had received support from a number of Representatives from southern states, the majority had voted against labor's interests.

"Thus our real battleground is below the Mason-Dixon line," he continued. "Our friends from the South are going to need all the help they can get."

Because of the difficulties encountered by labor thus far in the 81st Congress, it is all the more urgent, Mr. MacGowan declared, for the trade union movement to prepare for a real fight at the polls in 1950.

"We did a good job last November," he asserted, "but there is still plenty of work to be done in every section of the country, both to defeat our enemies and to protect our friends."

Number of Factory Jobs Up 50% Over '39 Level

Washington.—The number of production workers in United States factories rose from 7,800,000 in pre-war 1939 to 11,900,000 in 1947, an increase of about 50 percent, the Census Bureau reported.

Total wages of these workers increased from \$9,000,000,000 to \$30,000,000,000 in the same time, a rise of 235 percent.

The bureau summarized data obtained in the 1947 census of manufacturers. It said reports from 241,000 manufacturing companies showed the value added to materials by the manufacturing process amounted to \$74,000,000,000 in 1947 more than triple the comparable figure of \$24,000,000,000 in 1939.

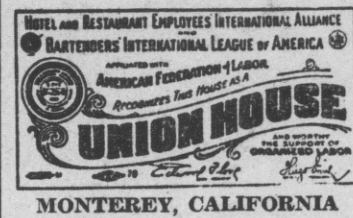
Used Cars—For Suckers

Detroit.—Quitting because "too many used-car dealers view each prospect as a sucker," Exec. Sec. Russell A. Nalrick of the Michigan Used-Car Dealers Assn. said:

"In the used-car business rugged individualism means cutthroat methods, lack of consideration for the customer, and lack of vision for the future. One dealer told me: Bring on the suckers!"

William Penn granted the city of Philadelphia its first charter in 1701.

Local 483 Reports



Our Jeepster award for the benefit of the Welfare and Sick Benefit Fund got off to a fine start during the past week, according to Committee Chairmen Andy Church and Lee Benson.

Several thousands of tickets already have been placed in nearly all of the places of employment of our members, and the committee men report that they are receiving very fine cooperation from members and owners alike. Now if the boys and girls really stay on the ball and get the tickets sold to their friends and customers, we'll soon reach the goal of 5,000 tickets sold. And that will mean that our Welfare Fund will again be solvent, so that sick and disabled members will be receiving assistance from the local. Keep up the good work, and let's make certain that this effort for our Welfare Fund is a successful one.

Mary Hillier and Mary Vieth, former day and night managers, respectively, of the Poppy, are now in business for themselves. The girls have purchased the T & L Lunch, located at 398 1/2 Del Monte Ave., and will be open for business by the time this issue of the Labor News reaches you. The two Marys have always been most cooperative with Local 483, and surely deserve your patronage. Don't forget—the T & L Lunch on Del Monte Ave. when you're in the mood for breakfast or luncheon.

Calls are now coming in for help in nearly all classifications for the Memorial Day holiday, which is nearly upon us, so please make certain that you are registered for employment with the union if you aren't working. This holiday is usually the kickoff for our summer season, so many of the members dispatched for extra jobs will undoubtedly be put to work for the entire season.

The first meeting for June will be held on Wednesday evening, June 1, at 8:30 p.m. The attendance at our night meetings has been very poor for several meetings past, and this situation should be corrected. Since the principal item of business at our June meetings will be the nomination of officers for the ensuing one-year term, it is hoped and expected that a large and representative attendance will be on hand to participate. Our union will need intelligent and effective leadership during the coming year, more than ever before, so it behooves each and every member to consider these offices seriously and make nominations accordingly. Your secretary has no suggestions nor recommendations to make for any of the various offices. It is, and should be, the right of the membership assembled at the meetings to select their own officers, with no pressures being brought from any individual source. Our local now has nearly 500 members who are eligible to vote in our annual elections. Let's see if we can't get them all up here at the Union Hall to participate in nominations and elections this year.

Your secretary spent an interesting few moments talking with Brother Theodore Mallos, cook at the Pilot Sea Food, the other day. Brother Mallos is probably the oldest member still holding down a steady job—and also one of the oldest from a standpoint of union membership. For Brother Mallos, who now is 74 years of age, joined the International Union just 47 years ago, in 1902! He worked for many years out of Local 44, Cooks' Union, San Francisco, and participated in the hotel and restaurant strike which gripped that city in 1916. Mallos has also owned and operated restaurants during his long career, and has always displayed the Union House Card and adhered to union conditions. I'm certain that all of our newer and younger members can learn a great deal from such men as Theodore Mallos.

A negotiation meeting with representatives of the Karmelkorn Shop was held on Saturday, May 21. No agreement was arrived at during the course of the meeting, but another get-together has been arranged for Friday, June 3. At the next meeting, the Organizing Committee of the Monterey Peninsula Central Labor Council will also sit in, in an effort to work out a satisfactory agreement with the Karmelkorn Shop. This employer, represented by Robert Norton of the California Association of Employers, has filed charges of unfair labor practices against your secretary, your local union, and also against the Central Labor Council and its secretary, Mr. Wayne Edwards. The charges were filed with the National Labor Relations Board, 20th Region, San Francisco, despite the fact that our industry does not come under the provisions of the Labor-Management Relations Act of 1947 (Taft-Hartley law), nor under the jurisdiction of the NLRB. It should prove interesting to note what action, if any, is taken by the NLRB!

BLS Needs More Funds

Washington.—The Bureau of Labor Statistics will put its major effort into revising its Consumer Price Index if it gets from Congress the \$1 million over last year's appropriation which the administration budget calls for, it has been revealed.

The index is of particular importance to workers whose wage scales are tied to it by contract. The index, BLS officials admit, has not been kept up to date because congressional budget-cutting in recent years has eliminated staff necessary to sample prices and make price studies.

Hartley law), nor under the jurisdiction of the NLRB. It should prove interesting to note what action, if any, is taken by the NLRB!

There are other establishments which are in need of organization also, particularly in the Pacific Grove and Carmel areas. You members can be of real assistance to your union by making it your business to discuss unionism with the workers in these unorganized houses. Many of these non-union workers have no knowledge of the functions of a union or of the benefits to be derived from membership. And most of them seem to think that they need not join a labor union in order to protect or improve their wages or working conditions, since most are paid the minimum wage scale anyway. They miss the point, of course, that the sole reason they are being paid wages equal to union workers is because the union and its members have worked and struggled to improve conditions in the entire industry. Since the non-union operator must compete with the union shop employer in the hiring of workers, it is only reasonable to assume that he must pay equal wages—if he wishes competent and desirable employees. These non-union workers are, in effect, nothing more nor less than "free riders" upon the backs of the active union members. When confronted with these facts, many of the non-union workers realize the good which is being, and has been, done by union activity, and are then interested in membership in the union. Very certainly they should be, and you union members should also be interested in urging upon them membership in our union as a self-protection measure, if for no other reason.

GEORGE L. RICE, Secretary.

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Forgotten People

"There are about one million workers engaged in the cultivation and harvesting of fruits and vegetables on large commercially operated farms in this country. They have no Social Security benefits, no health benefits. There are no labor laws to protect their interests. They move around from one section of a state to another and frequently from one section of the country to another year by year. During the '30s some progress was made in establishing up-to-date camps, schools and health centers for them. Two years ago Congress decided that the government should dispose of the camps to state governments or growers' organizations. Only a few of the camps, however, have been sold and all of them are gradually deteriorating. The conditions of these migratory workers have been fully dramatized. The facts in regard to their conditions are well known, and yet nothing seems to happen in regard to them."—From the Catholic Charities Review, April 1949.

Here is a problem for Senators and Congressmen!!—(LLPE).

Required Bank Reserves Cut to Stem Deflation
Washington.—The Federal Reserve Board has cut reserve requirements of the 7,000 member banks of the Federal Reserve System by \$1,200,000,000.

This marks the fourth time in the last two months that the board has acted to halt the current deflationary trend. The reduction in reserve requirements will make the \$1,200,000,000 available for lending at a time when business loans have declined \$1,500,000,000 in four months, the sharpest and fastest break on record.

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